

# On and About the Farm

## WHY? HOW?

Every once in a while, and sometimes oftener than that, I find some farmer wondering why the boy wants to leave the farm. Why wonder? Especially when we know that the boy knows that his father really wants to do the same thing as soon as he has saved up enough money to do it in the way that he wants to. Is it not a fact that too many of us by our daily lives and examples are teaching him the farm is only a place on which to work hard, and to live harder? And for what? To make enough money to move into town after you are too old to enjoy things, and when your spending muscles have been paralyzed by years of inaction and idleness. If your daily lives are along those lines, do not be surprised if your boy beats you into town by several years. And it may be that it will require years of tramping over the crumbling pavements of the city before he realizes that, after all, the plowed ground was easier on his crotch and conscience—and far better for his comfort. It is up to us to keep the boy on the farm. How? By teaching him, both by precept and example, that the farm is not merely a place to work and win wealth, by the sacrifice of many pleasures, but teach him that the farm is the only place God ever invented on which to live, broad, free, efficient, serviceable, helpful, healthy human lives. Thousands and thousands of such lives are being lived today upon the farm, out in the open of God's sunshine. And it is because of this fact, in a large degree, that this country is great and good—and growing better.—Farm Press.

## CABBAGE JOINS RANKS OF DIGESTIBLE VEGETABLES

Citizens of Great Bend and vicinity who find cabbage indigestible need no longer fear the vegetable. A discovery made by the department of home economics at the University of Kansas puts cabbage of all its dangerous properties and places it among the most palatable foods.

The secret lies all in the cooking. Classes under Dr. Edna Day found that when the cabbage is removed immediately from the water in which it is cooked it does not become brown or indigestible. This is because the vegetable throws off decomposition products while boiling and if taken from the liquid at once does not absorb them again.

**TRADE MORAL**—Nobody would have known the Good Samaritan's kind act were it not for Our Saviour's parable. Be the home folks' Good Samaritan, Mr. Merchant; make this paper your commercial bible; write your own parable and put it in our advertising columns.

## WHAT TO DO IN NOVEMBER.

Market the surplus live stock before winter feeding begins.

Plan to attend the farmers' short course at the college of agriculture this year.

Attend farmers' meetings held in your community. Study your business and try to improve.

Get the stables ready for the live stock. It pays to keep them comfortable during the winter.

Haul the barn yard manure and spread it on the field that is to be planted in corn next spring.

Look out for hog cholera and swine plague. Cleanliness about the food and water supply will do much to prevent these troubles.

The straw pile can be used for bedding, rather than let it stand in the field to wither and rot.

See that next spring's supply of seed corn is properly cured and stored.

See that all the farm implements are under shelter, repaired and oiled.

A little time put on the roads may prevent a bad mudhole next spring. The King drag is an excellent implement and can be used to good advantage.

Clean up all the trash that has accumulated about the place during the summer season. Some of it will make good firewood and insects will be deprived of their winter home.

himself and more than fifteen other people. His market is enormous and is constantly growing, as every influx of immigrants into this country brings a very large proportion of those who settle in the towns and cities and a very meager proportion of those who engage in farming. The young men and women who are raised on the farm are leaving in numbers and this egress is only partially offset by the number who have been affected by the back-to-the-farm "bug."

Relatively, the number of farmers is decreasing when compared with the number of non-producers. This makes it impossible for the farmer or breeder of pure-bred stock to ever have any great amount of competition. There are many breeders who are now in the field and who think they have severe competition. There are some men engaged in the business who ought to have competition, but the majority of them would fare better with co-operation instead. It is not likely that the breeder of pure-bred stock will suffer from competition to anything like the extent encountered by the business man of the city, but if he should do so he has one unfailing remedy that will bring him success, and that remedy consists in producing better stock than that produced by his competitors.

Better stock in this case means not only a higher class of animals individually and in blood lines, but a more economic method of feeding and handling them. The economic method belongs with the high class stock. It is the one thing, more than anything else, that has produced it. Good stock means good methods, as good methods mean good money.—Kansas Farmer.

## UNITE FARM AND BUSINESS.

The Kansas Agricultural Congress at Hutchinson, November 19 and 20, will bring together some of the most widely known experts on farm and industrial conditions in the United States. The conference was called to discuss policies and principles and to study the actual facts and conditions which confront the farmers and manufacturers.

J. H. Miller, superintendent of the extension department of the Kansas Agricultural college, who is chairman of the program committee, has arranged that the congress will be divided into six sessions, three each day. Edwin Taylor, president of the congress, will preside over the opening session Wednesday forenoon. Mr. Taylor will sound the "keynote" of the convention in an address, "Taking Stock and Seeing Present Limitations." The shortcomings of the state will be shown and remedies sought.

**Questions for General Debate.** Following President Taylor, Prof. L. E. Call of the agricultural college will handle the state's soil problems, and Dean F. W. Blackmar of the Kansas University will discuss the cost of living. Those subjects then will be open for a general debate.

F. D. Coburn, secretary of the state board of agriculture, will preside over the afternoon session. Prof. E. H. Webster of the agricultural college will make an address on the live stock industry and former Congressman Charles F. Scott will speak on the subject, "The County Farm Adviser." The session will close with a general discussion.

President Hill of the state normal school at Emporia will be chairman at night. W. C. Brown, president of the New York Central Railroad and B. F. Yoakum, chairman of the board of directors of the St. Louis & San Francisco railroad, may address the congress.

J. R. Koontz, general freight agent of the Atchafalaya, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad, will preside Thursday morning. George T. Nicholson, a former Kansan, now vice-president of the Santa Fe railway, will discuss the railroad and its relationship to agriculture and the industries. Lee Johnson, ex-state labor commissioner, will give an address on Kansas factory development.

Chancellor Frank Strong of Kansas University, will be chairman Thursday afternoon, when President H. G. Waters of the agricultural college will discuss the co-operative handling of farm produce. Paul Sargent, assistant director of the government bureau of public roads, will discuss the good roads question. President Taylor will preside over the closing session Thursday night, when the governor-elect will review the work of the congress and discuss needed legislation. Mrs. Cora E. Bullard, a widely known club woman and writer, will speak on farm problems at one of the afternoon meetings. The Hutchinson Commercial Club is planning to look after three thousand delegates.

## VENTILATE YOUR CORN CRIBS

Farmers are now busily engaged in cribbing their corn and unless they ventilate their corn cribs as they never did before, there will be a great deal of rejected corn in all that portion of the corn country north of latitude 43:50, and very considerable of it south of that latitude. Farmers are slow to realize that the improved corn which we have been growing in late years needs much more ventilation than the type of corn grown ten or fifteen years ago. They are finding out in the last two or three years that it is much more difficult to secure seed corn of that type than of the old type with larger cob and wider spaces between the rows. For the same causes which make the saving of seed corn difficult will render special ventilation necessary, if they are to have No. 2 or even No. 3 corn. The corn with the medium sized cob and deep grains will not dry out nearly as rapidly as the corn with a larger cob and shallower grains.

Again, this year there has been a good deal of frosted corn, particularly in the northern part of the corn belt. We often hear farmers wish that there would come a frost and stop the growth of corn, in order that it might dry out in time to crib. They forget that when corn is killed by the frost, the cell structure of the entire plant is destroyed, and hence can not help to dry out the corn. Just think a minute. Sap has been constantly coming up since spring from the roots through the plant, and out through the leaves and husks. When corn dies naturally, the cell structure remains and the same force which brought the sap up through the stalk and out through the leaves will take what remains in the stalk out through the leaves, through the ears and through the husks, for the reason that the cell structure is not destroyed. The machine is still in operation.


Two years ago we had a frost in October (or was it earlier?) which destroyed the cell structure, killed the plant. Do not our readers remember how that year the husks failed to open as they usually do, but clung close to the ear? The result was moldy corn. There was no natural way for the moisture to get out. Fungous entered from the end of the ear and spread all through it, and you had moldy corn.

Another consideration: Frosted corn is never as dry as it seems to be when you husk it. In other words there is far more water in it than one would imagine. Any farmer can test this out. Let him take a few ears from the wagon when he brings in his corn, weigh the lot, put it in the oven and kiln dry it. Make it as dry as you can. Then note the shrinkage in weight. If you have it thoroughly kiln dried, you may add ten or twelve per cent to the weight, which will give you normal No. 2 corn. All above that weight is water. Corn does not need to be No. 2 to be cribbed. It can very well have sixteen to eighteen per cent of water instead of ten or twelve per cent. The frosted corn this year will contain thirty per cent of water. If put in an ordinary crib without ventilation, it will heat in the center and become moldy; or at any rate will be so deteriorated in quality that it will not grade, and will sell at no grade prices. The part of this frosted corn that can not be fed to live stock before freezing weather had better be left standing in the fields as long as possible; for it will dry out there much better than if husked and put in the crib.

What then, is the remedy? Ventilate your cribs. Some farmers, where old fence rails are plentiful, adopt the plan of throwing in a few rails in the center of the crib, commencing within a couple of feet from the bottom, and putting them in at intervals, and thus allowing more or less access of air. Others use tile. These, however, are very easily displaced, and the ventilation interrupted. There are two methods, however, that are thoroughly practical.

Where you have a board floor in the crib, take up a board along in the middle of the crib and nail over the opening a piece of screen or chicken wire—something that will keep out the rats and mice. Then spike to each sill, on each side of this opening, a piece of 2x4, making a V-shaped trough, running it up about four feet. Then on each side nail on fence boards (four inch strips would be better), leaving an inch of space between each two boards, and thus form a ventilating shaft in the middle of the crib, which will allow the air to pass through and dry out your corn.

Mr. Riddell, a farmer in northern Iowa, gave us some very interesting information while we were preparing this article. He said in substance: While I was milking the cows one morning I thought of a new way of



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ventilating my corn crib. I had some cedar posts. I took up a board at the bottom of the crib, toe-nailed the cedar post into the joists and fastened it at the top. Then I nailed to the post on each side four-inch strips, leaving just about an inch or an inch and a quarter of space between the strips. That kept the corn perfectly. When removing the corn I found that what lay next to the ventilator was quite as dry as that outside.

Any farmer can do this. He does not need to have a cedar post. A straight willow will do just as well, or in fact, any other kind; but our readers can easily see how in this cheap way a ventilator can be put in the middle of a ten-foot crib that will dry out the corn quite as effectively as a more expensive method of ventilation.

The farmer who has frosted corn must do one of two things this year. He must either ventilate his crib, or he must accept the price of no-grade corn. If this frosted corn is put in any large quantity in a crib of the usual size, and we should have even a moderately cold winter, it will spoil more or less. If we should have an open winter, such as we have once in a while, the loss of this corn will be a very serious matter.

After we have gone to the expense of buying or renting land, and the labor of preparing the seed bed, cultivating and husking, why not go to a little more trouble and secure corn of first quality instead of second, third or fourth rate? The farmer has no choice in the matter. He must either ventilate his crib or he must stand this loss. He can spend five cents in insuring his corn against loss in this way, or he can lose a dollar in the way of damage. Which should the wise man do?

Suppose when this reaches your eye, you have your corn crib half full and on examination you find that this corn, when you dig down a little bit, is moist on the surface. What are you going to do about it? We don't know. To use a common and expressive, but not very elegant phrase, "It's up to you." But you had better determine on some way of getting air into that crib. It may be done by putting in some rails, or leveling it down and putting in a ventilator of the general style that we have described, when your crib is half full. This will not do half the good that it would if you had taken out a board and commenced at the bottom, but it will help some.

If we are going to improve our seed corn so as to have medium sized ears and cobs, with deep grains, we must accept the consequences of these improvements, namely, that it will be harder to keep the corn in the crib than with the old fashioned types. The fact is that we build our corn cribs entirely too large in this country. We have long believed that it would be far better to build a crib sixteen feet wide and put in permanent ventilators, than to build ten or twelve foot cribs without ventilation.

We do not know what the season will be, and corn that is cribbed without ventilation is at the mercy of the

season. Don't forget to find out just what per cent of moisture your corn contains. Weigh some ears and then kiln dry them in the stove, and see how much of what you call, corn is simply water, which has no nutritive value, and which is a constant source of danger and damage, unless you are aware of its existence and guard your self against it by crib ventilation of some sort.—Wallace Farmer.

## MARKET REPORT.

Kansas City Stock Yards, Nov. 11.—Small receipts of cattle last week favored sellers and the close of the week saw beef steers 15 to 40 cents higher than at the close of the previous week. Stockers and feeders gained 15 to 25 cents during the week cows and heifers 10 to 20 cents, bulls 25 cents, veal calves 25 to 50 cents. There was not quite enough cattle for anybody, hence the market quit with good prospects for the week. The run of 21,000 today did not alarm anyone, but when actual receipts counted up to 26,000 today, including 3,000 calves, middle grades of fed steers displayed some weakness. Short fed steers sell at \$7.00 to \$9.00, largely, prime steers quotable around \$10.00, though the top last week was \$9.75. Short fed steers are the weak point in the market and they will remain under suspicion until it is proven that no excessive run of that kind are to be expected. More than 150 cars of range cattle came in today and sales of same are strong. Beef steers from Montrose weighing 975 pounds brought \$5.65, Gunison cows \$5.40, New Mexico yearlings \$6.10. Top beef steers from the west bring \$7.25, heifers \$6.75, panhandle calves \$6.50 to \$9.50, feeders \$5.50 to \$7.00. Quarantine cattle advanced 10 to 15 cents last week, and are steady today, run today 94 cars. Arkansas and Louisiana stuff is coming freely and now, little old steers selling at \$2.60 to \$3.50. Quarantine cattle can now be taken into native territory for feeding under certain restrictions. A Missouri buyer took out 1000 of these cheap steers last week. Good quarantine steers bring \$5.30 to \$6.35, cows \$4.00 to \$5.25.

Hogs regained some of their late losses last week, but the hog always are still the scene of a fight for lower prices. Receipts are 9000 today, market 10 lower, top \$7.75, bulk \$7.40 to \$7.70. Packers have announced that they expect to buy hogs around \$7.00 this month, but the country refuses to ship freely when prices are going in that direction, thus defeating the purpose of the packers.

Sheep and lambs are selling irregularly, though a bullish feeling pervades the sheep house. Run is 12,000 today market weak to 25 lower, under the influence of a break of 25 to 40 cents in Chicago today. Top lambs brought \$7.50 here today, feeding lambs around \$6.00, fat ewes \$4.50, wethers \$5.15.

J. A. RICKART,  
Market Correspondent.

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